

CLAIMS:

1. A commode chair having a seat comprising:

a generally central opening;

5

a lateral outer edge; and

a support surface, disposed between the lateral outer edge and the opening, sloping downwardly in a direction towards the opening.

10

2. The commode chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein the seat further comprises a front outer edge and a rear outer edge, the support surface being disposed between the front outer edge and the rear outer edge.

15  
20  
25  
30

3. The commode chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein the seat further comprises a right lateral outer edge and a left lateral outer edge, the opening being disposed between the right and left lateral outer edges, and a first support surface disposed between the right lateral outer edge and the opening sloping downwardly in a direction towards the opening and a second support surface disposed between the left lateral outer edge and the opening sloping downwardly in a direction towards the opening.

25  
4. The commode chair as claimed in claim 3 wherein the seat further comprises a front outer edge and a rear outer edge, each of the first and second support surfaces being disposed between the front outer edge and the rear outer edge.

5. The commode chair as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first support surface extends from a region proximate the right lateral outer edge to a region proximate the opening and the second support surface extends from a region proximate the left lateral outer edge to a region proximate the opening.

30

6. The commode chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein sloping of the support surface is at an angle of at least 5° below the horizontal.

7. The commode chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein sloping of the support surface is at an 5 angle of at least 10° below the horizontal.

8. The commode chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein sloping of the support surface is at an angle of at least 20° below the horizontal.

10 9. The commode chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein the support surface has a length of at least 4 cm in the direction of the slope.

10. The commode chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein the seat further comprises a third support surface positioned rearwardly of the opening and a weir extending upwardly from the third support surface.

11. The commode chair as claimed in claim 10 wherein the weir is substantially perpendicular to the third support surface.

20 12. The commode chair as claimed in claim 5 wherein the seat further comprises a depression disposed between the right lateral outer edge and the left lateral outer edge, rearwardly of the front outer edge, and extending forwardly from the opening.

25 13. The commode chair as claimed in claim 12 wherein the depression slopes downwardly from a point rearward of the front outer edge to form a sloping surface extending to the opening.

14. The commode chair as claimed in claim 13 wherein the downward sloping of the sloping surface is substantially uninterrupted.

15. The commode chair as claimed in claim 14 wherein the downward sloping is substantially gradual.

16. A commode chair having a seat comprising:

5

a generally central opening;

a right lateral outer edge and a left lateral outer edge;

10

a front outer edge and a rear outer edge; and

a depression disposed between the right lateral outer edge and the left lateral outer edge, rearwardly of the front outer edge, and extending forwardly from the opening.

17. The commode chair as claimed in claim 16 wherein the depression slopes downwardly from a point rearward of the front outer edge to form a sloping surface extending to the opening.

18. The commode chair as claimed in claim 17 wherein the downward sloping of the sloping surface is substantially uninterrupted.

19. The commode chair as claimed in claim 18 wherein the downward sloping is substantially gradual.

25

20. A commode chair comprising:

a frame; and

30

a seat having a generally central opening, the seat being pivotally coupled to the frame and having a first seating position and a second seating position, wherein the first seating

position is characterized by a position of tilt which is different than that of the second seating position.

21. The commode chair as claimed in claim 20 wherein the chair further comprises a first 5 extendible support member, adapted to cause the seat to resist a downward weight of a person sitting on the seat and thereby support the seat.

22. The commode chair as claimed in claim 21 wherein the first extendible support member is pivotally coupled at one end to the seat and adapted to apply a force upwardly on the 10 seat.

23. The commode chair as claimed in claim 22 wherein the first extendible support member is releasably lockable.

24. The commode chair as claimed in claim 23 further comprising a backrest pivotally coupled to the frame and having a first backrest position and a second backrest position, wherein the first backrest position is characterized by a position of inclination which is different than that of the second backrest position.

25. The commode chair as claimed in claim 24 wherein at least one of the first backrest position and the second backrest position has a position of inclination forward of vertical.

26. The commode chair as claimed in claim 25 wherein the position of inclination forward of vertical is at least  $5^\circ$  forward of vertical.

27. The commode chair as claimed in claim 26 further comprises a second extendible support member adapted to support the backrest in a desired position of inclination.

28. The commode chair as claimed in claim 27 wherein the first seating position or the 30 second seating position is characterized by a position of tilt having an angle of at least  $5^\circ$  below horizontal.

29. A commode chair comprising:

a frame;

5

a seat having a generally central opening; and

10

a backrest pivotally coupled to the frame and having a first backrest position and a second backrest position, wherein the first backrest position is characterized by a position of inclination which is different than that of the second backrest position, and wherein at least one of the first backrest position and the second backrest position has a position of inclination forward of vertical.

15  
20  
25

30. The commode chair as claimed in claim 29 wherein the position of inclination forward of vertical is at least 5° forward of vertical.

31. The commode chair as claimed in claim 30 further comprises a second extendible support member adapted to support the backrest in a desired position of inclination.

32. A commode chair comprising:

a seat having a generally central opening and a lateral outer edge;

25

an armrest disposed laterally from the lateral outer edge and having a first armrest position and a second armrest position, wherein the first armrest position is characterized by a lateral position which is different than that of the second armrest position.

30

33. The commode chair as claimed in claim 32 wherein the armrest is laterally moveable relative to the seat.

34. The commode chair as claimed in claim 33 wherein the armrest is releasably coupled to the chair.

35. The commode chair as claimed in claim 34 wherein the armrest is releasably coupled to the seat.

5

36. A commode chair comprising:

first and second lateral frame members; and

10

a seat having a generally central opening first and second lateral edges corresponding to the first and second frame members respectively, each of the lateral edges including a downward reverse bend to form a flange wherein the flange engages each of the respective frame members in snap fit engagement.